November 5, 2009

Department of the Interior Bureaus Receive Federal Energy and Water Management Awards

The Department of the Interior's Energy and Transportation Management team and four bureaus were recognized for their exceptional energy and water and management efforts at the Department of Energy's annual Federal Energy Management Awards ceremonies on October 28 and 29, 2009.

The Department of the Interior's Energy and Transportation Management team, represented by the Office of Acquisition and Property Management and each of the bureaus, received a Presidential Award for Leadership in Federal Energy Management for exceeding the goals established of Executive Order 13423, specifically reducing energy intensity, using renewable energy, reducing water intensity and reducing petroleum use in covered fleet. The Presidential Award is sponsored by the Office of Management and Budget and the Council for Environmental Quality and honors Federal employees for their support, leadership, and efforts in promoting and improving Federal energy management. This prestigious award was presented at the Ronald Reagan Building in Washington, D.C. on October 29, 2009.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute (SIPI) Photovoltaic Roof Project in Albuquerque, New Mexico, received an Organization Award for Renewable Energy. The 70 kilowatt building integrated photovoltaic roofing system on SIPI's gymnasium offset its overall electricity consumption by an estimated 127 megawatt-hours annually and annually saves $7,620. This is the largest photovoltaic system in New Mexico. In addition, under the school's renewable energy curriculum, this new photovoltaic system allows the students to monitor its renewable electricity generation as well as the system's operations and maintenance.

Photo 1 - BIA Southwest Indian Polytechnic Institute Photovoltaic Installation on Gymnasium Roof

The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Rapids Lake Education and Visitor Center, Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, in Minnesota received a Small Group Award for Sustainable Design/High Performance Buildings. Key energy performance features of the building include the 24-ton ground-source geothermal system, high efficiency lighting, occupancy sensors and daylighting sensors, low-e glass, super insulated exterior envelope, waterless urinals, a "fire-proof" standing seam metal roof, cement board siding, and numerous other sustainable features. Building performance is expected to be 60 percent better than the American Society of Heating, Refrigeration, and Air Conditioning Engineers

energy code requirements, which results in annual energy and cost savings of 122 megawatt hours and $10,400, respectively.

Photo 2 - FWS Rapid Lake Education and Visitor Center Minnesota Valley National Wildlife Refuge, Bloomington, Minnesota

In addition, FWS, Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge Administration Building and Visitor Contact Facility, in West Virginia received a Small Group Award for Sustainable Design/High Performance Buildings. The building utilizes a ground source heat pump system which provides 27.3 Million BTUs of renewable energy to the facility each year. Designers took a whole-building approach to sustainability with extensive use of regional, recycled, low-emitting, and non-toxic materials. These features resulted in an annual energy savings of 29,400 kilowatt hours and cost savings of $1,840.

Photo 3 – FWS Ohio River Islands Administration Building and Visitor Contact Station Ohio River Islands National Wildlife Refuge, Williamstown, West Virginia

The National Park Service, Blue Ridge Parkway Destination Center in Asheville, North Carolina received an Organization Award for Sustainable Design/High Performance Building. This building was certified

as a LEED Gold facility. The passive solar Trombe walls harness the sun's energy in winter and night cooling in summer (generating 128.5 MMBTU annually) while 100% of the purchased energy (94 megawatt hours purchased for electricity only) is from green sources. A 10,000-square-foot green roof is planted with native, drought tolerant plants. On-site cisterns are utilized to capture rainwater for landscape irrigation. All materials were made in the USA, and many were found within a 500 mile radius. Annual energy and cost savings were 285 mega-watt hours and $24,410, respectively.

Photo 4 – NPS Blue Ridge Parkway Destination Center, Asheville, North Carolina

The NPS Lassen Volcanic National Park Visitor Center in Redding, California received a Small Group Award for Sustainable Design/High Performance Building. This building was recently certified by the U.S. Green Buildings Council as a LEED Platinum facility. Numerous sustainability features have been incorporated into the facility including, a 30 kilowattt photovoltaic system, a 10 ton ground source heat pump, in addition to the purchase of renewable energy, super insulation, daylighting, dual flush toilets and waterless urinals, low emitting and high recycle content materials, LED exhibit lighting and other energy efficient features. Annual energy cost savings at Lassen Visitor Center is $14,700.

Photo 5 – NPS Lassen Volcanic National Park Visitor Center, Redding, California

The U.S. Geological Survey, John W. Powell National Center in Reston, Virginia received a Small Group Award for Water Conservation. The National Center's facility management personnel implemented various water conservation projects that resulted in a savings of 2.9 million gallons of water, or 14.4 percent, as compared to FY 2007. In addition, in FY 2008 water costs were reduced by $21,700, or 25 percent of annual water costs. These projects include, a closed-loop cooling water retrofit for laboratory test equipment, a low-flow plumbing fixture replacement, landscape irrigation modification, cooling tower process improvements and cafeteria sustainability measures.

Photo 6 - USGS John W. Powell National Center, Reston, Virginia

The Department of Energy's Federal Energy Management Program Awards recognizes outstanding achievements in the conservation and efficient use of energy and water; improving the nation's energy security and reliability; use of renewable energy sources, and sustainable, high performance buildings. The FY 2009 awards were presented at the Renaissance Washington D.C. Hotel on October 28, 2009.